

commercial community, attracting many businesses small and large.

Pico Rivera has a rich history, and has continued to invest in the local community through projects such as the Passons Boulevard railroad underpass project, and the new Pico Rivera Library. These types of city projects make Pico Rivera a great place to live, work, and relax. I am honored to represent this city and its residents, and look forward to what the next 60 years have in store.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE
WORCESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor six members of the Worcester Police Department who assisted with recovery efforts in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane

Maria, the worst natural disaster that island has ever experienced.

In response to an urgent request from their colleagues in Puerto Rico, the Worcester Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Gary Gemme, deployed six officers to assist with recovery efforts on the island.

On Wednesday, October 18, four of Worcester's finest deployed to Puerto Rico for two weeks and then, two weeks later, a second group deployed for another two weeks.

These officers: Sargent Armando Garcia, Officers Danny Diaz, David Rojas, Jose Lugo-Gardner, Luis Baez, and an undercover officer—all with personal ties to Puerto Rico—joined members of the Massachusetts State Police to help their fellow Americans recover and rebuild.

The experience was emotional—the work, demanding. They labored in and around the city of Carolina, where the hurricane caused catastrophic damage to the power grid, roads, and bridges. Around the clock, they responded to emergency calls, enforced curfews, and secured infrastructure.

They distributed food and water. They saved the life of a suicidal man, administered CPR to victims of a motor vehicle accident, and assisted someone who was suffering from seizures. They provided a much-needed respite for local law enforcement officials who were exhausted by their own responsibilities to their communities and their families.

These officers represent the absolute best of the kind-hearted, compassionate people of Worcester. The emotional toll of bringing order to such chaos is high—yet these officers gave their time and talent unconditionally to the people of Puerto Rico.

We owe them our respect, our admiration, and our gratitude. Their example of putting others first inspires us all. They have truly made a difference, and for that, they should be proud. I, for sure, am proud of them.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Worcester, the people of Massachusetts, and the United States Congress, I would like to recognize and applaud these officers and all who made their mission in Puerto Rico possible.